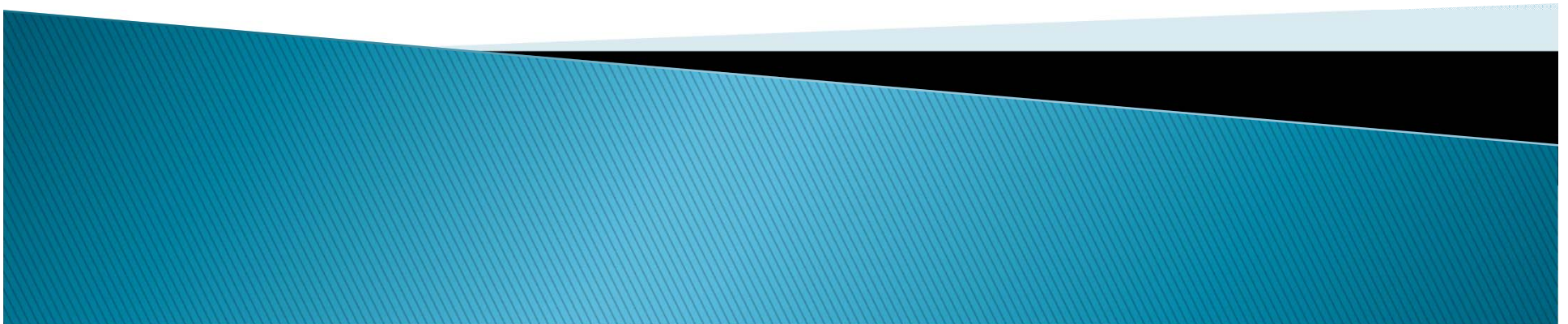
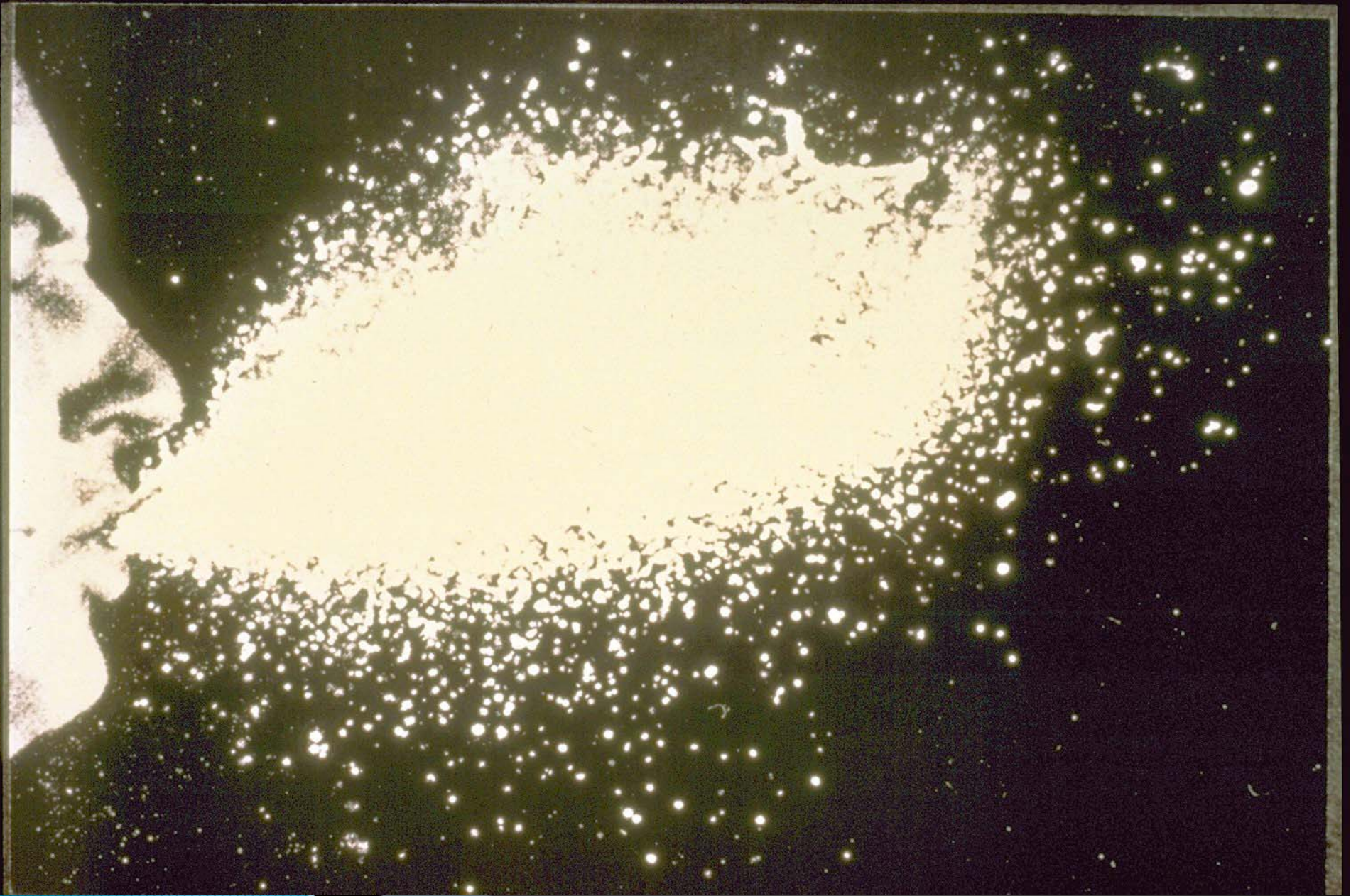


# To Mask Or Not To Mask: Influenza Vaccination Policies for Health Care Personnel

Kate McAuley RN MS PHN  
Sacramento County Public Health  
Immunization Assistance Program Coordinator







# Sacramento County

- ▶ First Health Officer Letter sent in July 2011
- ▶ For all inpatient and ambulatory care HCWs
- ▶ Either vaccinated or masked during flu season
- ▶ Recommended easy identification of those vaccinated



# Laws

- ▶ Referenced two CA laws:
- ▶ CA Health & Safety Code 1288.7 effective January 1, 2007
- ▶ CA Health & Safety Code 5199 Aerosol Transmissible Disease standard of Cal OSHA effective September 1, 2010





# Support

- ▶ Northern California Partnership for Influenza Prevention formed in 2003
- ▶ Two local MDs' recognition of a community need to promote annual flu immunizations
- ▶ Formed a coalition with Health Officer
- ▶ Helped promote the HCW Flu Vaccine Masking Policy in 2011
- ▶ Support of local hospitals



# Reactions

- ▶ The first year brought some resistance
- ▶ Settings.... is this direct patient care?
- ▶ What about egg allergy?
- ▶ Protests from HCW who never get sick, never vaccinate for flu
- ▶ Using identifiable proof such as sticker on badge



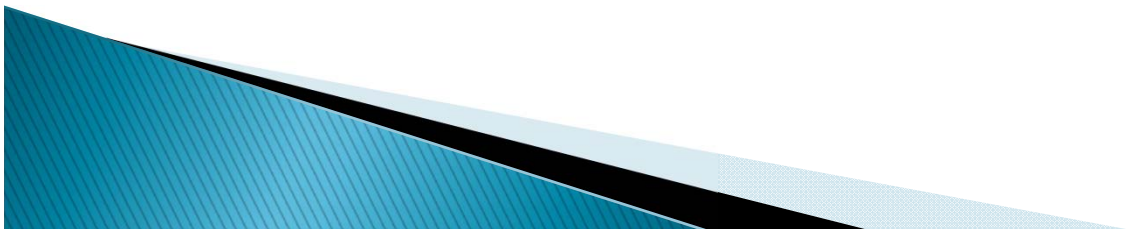
# Vaccination and Masking

- ▶ Health Officer letter declared the start of flu season and start of masking for unvaccinated HCWs
- ▶ Sent after the first ICU case of Flu was reported to the Health Department
- ▶ Letter sent to end the masking policy when flu cases became sporadic



# 2015-16

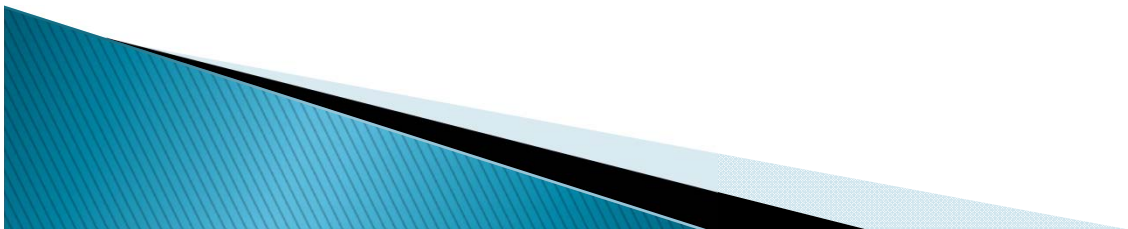
- ▶ Defined the flu season as lasting November 1st to March 31st of the following year
- ▶ Stated order is ongoing, applies year to year unless order is rescinded
- ▶ Health Officer to issue Health Alert providing guidance to start the masking policy in facilities
- ▶ Includes HCWs paid and unpaid working in patient care areas as well as direct patient care





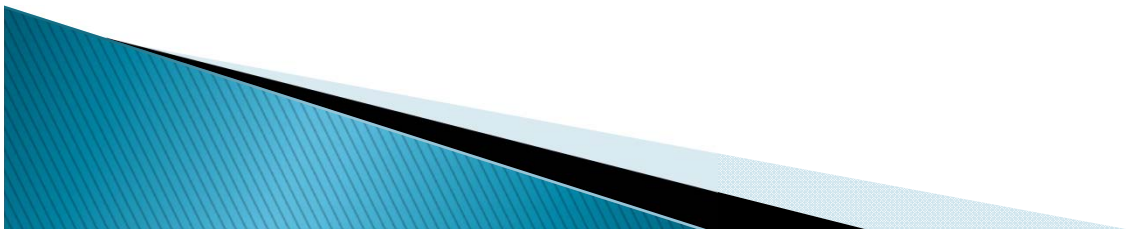
# Influenza Health Advisory

- ▶ Actions requested of Clinicians
- ▶ “Healthcare providers be an example and get vaccinated”
- ▶ Implement infection control procedures
- ▶ Continue masking policy for HCW with direct patient care



# CAHAN

- ▶ Local CAHAN alert used
- ▶ Easy enrollment
- ▶ Hospitals, clinics, LTC, and providers
- ▶ Utilized since 2017 for alerts



- ▶ Hospitals report higher vaccination rates among their employees with a mandatory vaccination/masking policy

# Citation

Black CL, Yue X, et al. Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Health Care Personnel—2016–17 Influenza Season. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2017;66:1009–1015.

